The
Niagara Advance
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Thursday, December 17, 2015

THE HOLIDAYS WILL BE FINE
AS LONG AS THERE'S
WINE!
konzelmann estate winery

Mazza won't get apology he requested 2

Penguin Swim celebrates 40 years 20

Ranger atoms earn bronze in tourney get it online
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Warm welcome greets Santa

It was the longest parade on one of the warmest days in memory for the NOTL Christmas Parade, as more than 100 entries led Santa and his reindeer through the crowd-line streets of the Old Town Saturday. For more photos, please see pages 12 and 13. Penny Coles/Niagara Advance

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"From my family to yours, Have a Merry Christmas!"

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Request for apology turned down on technicality

Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

A complaint by Niagara-on-the-Lake Coun. Martin Mazza about comments made by another councillor last month has been dismissed by Lord Mayor Pat Darte.

Mazza had asked Darte to make a ruling on a point of personal privilege, saying he was offended after being interrupted by Coun. Jim Collard when he requested more time for 2016 budget discussions.

Collard had risen on a point of order and said it was "ludicrous" to continue debate on the budget when some councillors had not attended the workshops held by staff. He then left the meeting.

Mazza complained that Collard's "rant" violated the town's procedural bylaw in three ways - a councillor's personal opinion does not fall under a point of order, interruption of a councillor and use of offensive language. He also took exception to Darte telling him his remarks about Collard's interruption were "uncalled for."

On Monday, Darte said he had consulted legal counsel for the town, and ruled against Mazza's complaint. Darte said a point of personal privilege has to be raised at the meeting where the discussion occurred.

The comments Mazza objected to were made during a committee of the whole meeting Nov. 23. He brought them up at the council meeting the following week just before Darte ruled on a point of order raised by another councillor.

Coun. Martin Mazza

"At what point was I entitled to this?" Mazza asked Darte. "You took the floor away from me."

There is no discussion allowed on a point of personal privilege, but councillors can make a motion to appeal the decision. Mazza initially requested an appeal, then changed his mind. "I withdraw my appeal," he said. "It's just not worth it."

At the council meeting Nov. 23, Darte bad ruled in favour of point of personal privilege by Coun. Betty Disero. She said her rights as a councillor had been infringed by Coun. Paolo Miele by the use of her name on his Facebook site about the hiring of two new town staff.

Miele bad apologized to Disero before the ruling, so Darte said there would be no further debate on the issue.

Town clerk Holly Dowd explained after the meeting Monday that the procedural bylaw allows for Disero's point of personal privilege to be dealt with at the next council meeting, unlike Mazza's complaint, since the issue did not occur at a council meeting.

Coun. Jim Collard

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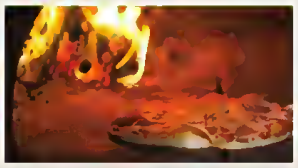

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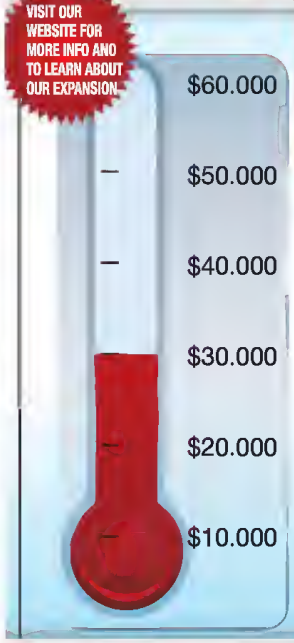

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Council approves budget increase of 1.12 per cent

Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

The final 2016 operating and capital budgets have been approved by Niagara-on-the-Lake council with a last-minute increase in funding for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

The library board had requested $22,752 more than the $563,000 allocated in the draft operating budget to allow it to eventually stay open seven days a week with an earlier start on weekdays.

With the additional funding in the $9.3 million operating budget, property owners will see an increase of 1.12 per cent on the town's portion of their tax bill.

A suggestion by Coun. John Wiens during the draft budget discussions in October that the heritage incentive program be increased from $35,000 to $60,000 was not approved in the final budget.

Councillor Paolo Miele had asked staff in October to find ways to reduce the costs in some areas if council wanted to increase funding for other items, like the library. On Monday, he again argued that the $17,000 budgeted for new technology for council chambers should be omitted.

Town clerk Holly Dowd said the new cameras would improve the quality of the live streaming of council meetings. The other councillors voted to buy the new equipment.

Councillor Martin Mazza objected to councillors being given a 10-minute time limit by Lord Mayor Pat Darte for comments on the final budget, following a series of questions by Miele.

"We've had a couple of months," said Darte. "We've had, in my estimation, ample time for everybody."

Council also approved an $8 million capital budget. Of the $3 million budgeted for roads, the largest reconstruction projects are for Four Mile Creek Road from Niagara Stone Road to Penner Road, and on Queenston Road from Concession 5 to Concession 6.

Other large capital projects include $580,000 for equipment for Fire and Emergency Services and renovations to the library for $328,400.

Capital reserves were also increased by 13 per cent for 2016 to address an infrastructure gap of almost $3 million for roads, structures, water and wastewater assets.

Chautauqua residents gathered Friday evening for the annual Chautauqua Neighbourhood Christmas Carol Stroll. Santa led carollers through the streets of Chautauqua, entertaining friends and neighbours with songs of the season. Afterwards, they enjoyed hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows while the children shared a sleigh ride and their wishlist with Santa.

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El Nino could delay Niagara icewine harvest

Don Fraser
Postmedia Network

For Lou Puglisi, the waiting is the hardest part.

Puglisi has netted about five acres of Vidal, Riesling and Cabernet Franc icewine grapes. And they all need a blast of deep-freezing before they can become Niagara's sweet delicacy.

But this December's tropical ways have resulted in a picking delay that could stretch into January.

"We are waiting patiently," said Puglisi, owner of PondView Estate Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake. "And I don't think the crop has been affected just yet. If it continues to be warm, obviously it's going to be a concern.

"But we do live in Canada and winter will eventually come, we're waiting for that cold snap," he said.

On Monday the thermometer shot up to 20°C, smashing a one-day 16.1° record achieved in 1975 and continuing a warm spell with legs.

A strong El Nino, with its superheated swath of Pacific Ocean, is to blamed or credited for the unseasonably mild weather in these parts.

But Jamie Slingerland said sultry El Ninos are par-for-the-course in grape growing, and specifically harvesting icewine.

"We've gone through this before," said the director of viticulture at Pillitteri Estates Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake. During the winter of 2001-02, pickings could only be done New Year's Eve and one day in late March.

That said, "as an industry, we've been able to mechanize to a very big degree now," said Slingerland.

That means required days of laborious manual handpicking can be done quickly by mechanization, when grapes are at their frozen best at -8°C.

"Obviously colder days earlier are always better, because the percentage of crops you harvest are always the highest," Slingerland said.

"But this is an historic pattern; we have years of great cold years and then we have challenging years.

"We've gone through this so many times before, a lot of farmers take it with a grain of salt... we have to work with it," he said.

"We'll still get there."

Debbie Zimmerman, CEO of the Grape Growers of Ontario, said "the birds are always the threat... and as the vines go to sleep the grapes start to dry up and you don't want to get them as they become completely dessicated."

"But right now, we're good, still holding and January is really what we're looking for (in a cold-weather) break."

Climatologist Anthony Shaw, a professor in Brock University's department of geography, said the El Nino good news is the likelihood of less snow this year.

That means a break on municipal slow clearing and winter maintenance budgets.

However, it could be problematic for retailers of winter items and ski-resort operators.

"And for heating ... the bill will also go down quite significantly," Shaw said.

See Page 5

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January thaws and cold snaps strike fear for growers

From Page 4

Meanwhile for tender fruit and grape growers — and other than icewine-grape holdouts — this winter could bring relief after two brutal, bud-killing seasons.

"It could be positive news, if temperatures don't drop dramatically," he said.

The problem is a mild winter could prompt early bud-swelling "and it doesn't take very cold temperatures to bring about major damage," said Shaw, who teaches meteorology and climatology and focuses his research on climate change impact on the wine industry.

That's especially a concern with January thaws "followed by a very cold snap," he said.

"There (can be) a lot of volatility in the weather."

Meanwhile, Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips can't help but feel a little smug.

His universe is unfolding as it should.

"You always feel kind of good when you say 'this is going to happen and ... it plays out like it should, and as the models say,'" said Phillips.

"It really is very balmy, and I just don't know where you're going to get a white Christmas," he adds.

While the warming El Nino effects could weaken by January, the next winter phase could see thaws and freeze-ups.

"So don't procrastinate if you're an icewine picker or a skier," said Phillips.

Lou Puglisi of PondView Estate Winery in NOTL, is waiting patiently for the drop in temperature that will mean picking frozen grapes - not expected this year until January.
Bob Tymczyszyn/Postmedia Network

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Comment

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The Niagara Advance

Peter Conradi Regional Editor
Penny Coles Editor

Point of View

A gift that will keep giving

Whatever the political stripe of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, they are so very quick to pitch in when needed that we should all be proud of this great town and its generous people.

For a small community, it has a huge heart. There is evidence all around us, particularly at this time of year, but the news that now three local churches are stepping up to the plate and sponsoring Syrian refugees is further proof.

All involved expressed some disappointment that these refugee families will not be settling in town. We are a warm, welcoming community, and it would be wonderful to think they could be embraced, nurtured and made to feel safe right here in our midst.

But that is just not practical in a small town with little transportation and few of the services they will need, so instead, these church congregations - and although we know of three, there could well be other organizations we haven't heard from - are gladly taking on the responsibility of looking after a family of refugees for a year, helping them settle in St. Catharines.

Despite all the dark comments and fear-mongering we have seen on social media, many of our residents have shown what we believe, and certainly hope, represents the majority of opinions, in reaching out with enthusiasm to help and make safe a group of men, women and children who have been living a nightmare.

We are accustomed to seeing and commenting on the evidence of giving and good grace around us at Christmas, but this is a commitment that will last all year long.

We are proud of our country for opening its arms to those seeking a safe haven, and so very proud of a small community that sees a need and responds to fill it.

Although it is three church congregations sponsoring refugee families, those who wish to offer their help will be welcome, and we expect to hear more news in the coming weeks of just how charitable our community is.

Students help needy at Christmas

Grade 6 St. Michael students led a project that partnered with Newark Neighbours to sponsor 10 needy families or individuals in NOTL, to help them have a hope-filled and joyous Christmas. Helping to deliver the food to Newark were students Emma Elia, Vinny Pilliteri-Smith, Nathan Van de Laar and JP Galbraith.

letters to the editor

Community keeping up tradition of looking after refugees

Reading of the plans by the Mennonite community in NOTL to sponsor a Syrian family, I was reminded that I am here today as a result of a refugee resettlement program.

After the First World War in Europe, the Canadian government was asking Canadians to sponsor farm labour to help open up the Prairies for agriculture.

My father was one such refugee, assisted by a Hutterite community in southern Alberta. When he told them of his wife and five children still in Hungary, they contacted the government and the family crossed Europe and the ocean to the vast open fields of Alberta. This cost was carried by the Hoffer community, which my dad repaid with his labour.

The Hoffer family kept in contact with us all through my father's life. Many years later when my father was quite old, he was left with no one to take in his crop after my brother died suddenly during harvest time. Somehow the news reached the extended Hoffer group and from down the road appeared four huge combines. They cleaned off the grain in one day and night and all they asked in return was space to store their excess wheat.

It is good to know communities like that are keeping up the tradition today. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Mickey Cameron
NOTL

Thanks for help at Christmas

Bonnie Turner
Newark Neighbours

The weeks are flying by so fast it will be Christmas in no time.

The volunteers at the barn have been busy packing gift and toy bags and food boxes for our Christmas program. The donations of both have been flowing in steadily.

We want to thank Nicole Cripps and her team who organized the Candlelight Stroll this year. It has been the largest collection of food that I have seen in my nine years with Newark Neighbours.

The Bethany Mennonite Church's Boys Club (Grades 1 to 6) gathered a whole pickup truck full of food for us.

The Niagara Mennonite Church brought in food as well as the St Mark's Ladies Tea Group. Eleanor Wiebe made a food donation and we had a anonymous donations of turkeys. Thank you to all who share so generously at Christmas and all year through.

Our program wraps up Friday, Dec 18 with the dispensing of the food boxes and gifts. We still have lots of thank yous to make so don't think we have forgotten anyone.

We will be closed until 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4. If you could hold your drop-offs we would really appreciate it. Christmas donations will be accepted until Friday, Dec,.18 at 1 p.m.

We are closing for shopping 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 and will reopen at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4. Residents in need can contact us at the barn at 905-468-3519 for more information, or visit us on John Street - turn into the Riverbend Inn driveway and then turn right when you see our little sign.

Bonnie Turner is a volunteer for Newark Neighbours.

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OUR LETTERS POLICY

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Submit your letters via e-mail to: **penny.coles@sunmedia.ca**

Opinion

letters to the editor

Thanks for beautiful Candlelight Stroll event

What a great time we had last weekend at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

So off my wife and I went at the recommendation of a friend, to Niagara-on-the-Lake to enjoy their annual Candlelight Stroll event. We stayed at the famous Prince of WalesHotel, beautifully placed in the heart of this town.

Firstly, the entrance to this hotel was of the most beautiful Christmas season spirit that you could ever dream of.

Beautifully decorated with Christmas colours with the sounds of Christmas music thrilling all who entered this sight to behold. Surely this is where angels sing their best. All this and the most polite staff that one could ever imagine, so hospitable and smiles all around.

The room was ready waiting for us on time and it was a real treasure within. A plate of fruit was waiting within with a few hottles of spring water and shortly after arriving, there was a knock at the door. When I answered it there was a young lady with a basket of white roses and she presented one to me and said that it was a gift from the hotel and she hoped that we enjoyed our stay.

Wow. What a way to arrive at one of the most beautiful places that we have ever stayed at.

After settling in we headed out to the main street in front of the hotel where we were met by many folks who were just all smiles, happy moods and enjoying this beautiful town.

We feasted on some Greek food which was amazing and later headed out to the Candlelight Stroll event.

Hundreds of people met in front of the Chamber of Commerce huilding in the heart of downtown with lit candles that were being sold near by.

This happy crowd was led in many Christmas carols, with the scents of coffees and hot chocolates, candies of cinnamon and so many other seasonal pleasures.

We soon walked as a very large crowd down side streets close to the downtown core, with the most gorgeous older homes that had heen preserved and decorated to the finest degree. Along the way we were met by small groups of Christmas carolers, Christmas bells, marching bands playing and many town folk standing in front of their homes and welcoming us all and thanking us for coming to their town.

Once the Candlelight Stroll was completed, we walked around the heart of this town, enjoying the mood, the friendly people in the stores, the very friendly police officers who maintained the intersections to the closed off downtown streets that had heen reserved for the many guests to stroll freely.

What a time we had. There's something very special about Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is truly one of the most beautiful places that we have ever been to. You just may never want to leave.

Hats off to the many people who worked so hard to open this town up for the spirit of Christmas.

Our deepest respect to the town folk who greeted all with open arms and hearts

Thank you for one of the most beautiful evenings that we have enjoyed. Your stores, your scenery, your people all make us want to come back to visit again soon and we surely will he back.

Thanks for an evening of beautiful memories that will last always.

Kenny Lord
Whitby, Ontario

Christmas with Uncle Willy

Submitted by Bill Hamilton, who wrote this poem about one of his favourite uncles.

It was Christmas Eve we were down on the farm,
Uncle Willy was at it spinning a yarn.
At his elbow was Jimmy; at his side was Marie,
At his knee were the cookies,
At his feet there was me.

He was plump as he sat there all bubbling with cbeer,
In his left hand his pipe and in his right was his beer.
One leg was extended, the other tucked in,
We all waited patiently for the tale to begin.
Quietly listening we were spellhound with awes,
For Uncle Willy had actually met Santa Claus!

It was a long time ago and his memory unclear,
So up went the bottle for a sip of more heer.
And then he began, and the story he told,
Was of Willy the hoy, he was then four years old.

"It was now Christmas Eve with not much in store,
The harvest was bad and my Folks they were poor.
The family huddled close so we all wouldn't freeze,
My sister was whimpering and started to sneeze.

Mom and Dad went upstairs for more bedding and clothes,
While tbe wind swirled througb cracks and bit into our toes.

My Brotbers and Sisters dozed off one, two, three,
And all tbat remained was little old me!
Then all of a sudden I heard a loud snap
And next on tbe roof came a rat-ta-ta-tat.

Down from the chimney came coal, dust and soot
And soon there appeared a massive black boot!
I tried to awake all those slumbering beads,
Their bodies were limp in tbeir substitute beds.

I turned around quick and there be did stand,
Decked out in his red suit, a large bag in his hand.
He whispered a secret as he brushed off his sleeve
"In order to see me you have to believe!"

As he walked througb the room the ligbts glistened bright
The fire bellowed fortb giving warmtb to the night.
He emptied his bag spreading gifts on tbe floor,
Then grabbed our old axe and walked out the door.

In a wbile he returned with a beautiful tree
We took our time decorating Old Santa and me!
But, all tbings must end and tbe time came to say
Merry Christmas Wee Willy I'm off to my sleigb!"

And off be did clatter that merry Old Sprite
I can still see bis silhouette fading deep in tbe night.
I woke up my Dad but, saw doubt in bis face,
When I related the story whicb bad just taken place."

So tbat was Willy's story though hard to conceive,
Only tbose wbo see Santa, are those who believe!
Old Willy stood up to get us off to our beds,
While all sorts of notions, whirled round in our heads.

A little while later I snuck out by the stairs
And tbere was Uncle Willy asleep in his cbair.
It was as though he was waiting for his Old Friend tonight
As his chair faced the glow of the fireplace light!

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Refugees coming to Niagara, but not en masse

Grant LaFleche
Postmedia Network

Niagara is getting ready to accept more refugees, but don't expect a repeat of warm-hearted scenes of large groups of new arrivals greeted by community and political leaders.

Jeff Burch, executive director of the Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Centre, said while Niagara is expecting to welcome a few hundred refugees, their arrival will be quieter than the initial arrivals at Canadian airports, coming in small groups at a time.

"There is no temporary housing here," said Burch, whose organization is part of the Niagara Refugee Assistance Committee. "The federal government was, at one point, looking at smaller communities for temporary housing, but have decided to settle on the 36 cities designated for that, including Hamilton."

Hamilton has the means to temporarily house the 1,200 refugees expected to arrive there. But the city's ability to do so will be strained, so Niagara is acting as a pressure valve.

Burch said as housing becomes available in Niagara, refugees will be moved from Hamilton to spaces here.

In the meantime, privately sponsored refugees have already begun to arrive in the region, though their housing needs are arranged through the sponsoring person or organization.

At present, the folks arts centre is acting at the focal point to gather information and donations for refugees. However, Burch said by the end of the week, a refugee assistance portal will be launched online to collect donations, housing leads and put out other information on the situation.

Until then, for more information go online to www.folk-arts.ca or email generalenquiries@folkarts.ca.

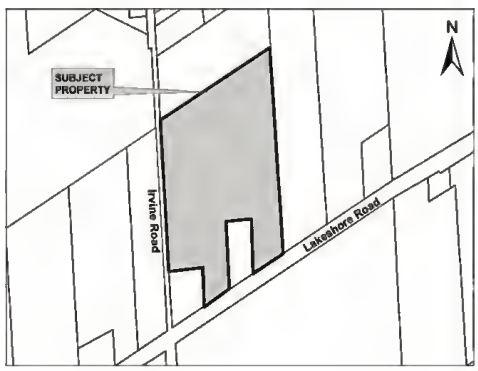
Niagara-on-the-Lake EST.1781

1593 Four Mile Creek Road,
PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
Tel: 905-468-3266 • Fax: 905-468-2959
E-Mail: info@notl.org
Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.notl.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

552 Lakeshore Road - Zoning Amendment

PROPOSED CHANGE
Rezone the subject lands to Agricultural Purposes Only to prohibit the development of the lands.



HAVE YOUR SAY
Input on any proposed matter is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

PUBLIC MEETING
Date: January 11, 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter
Place: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION
To provide input in writing or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information, please contact Brynne O'Neill at 905-468-3266 extension 254 or boneill@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

LEGAL NOTICE
Section 34 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submission to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so.

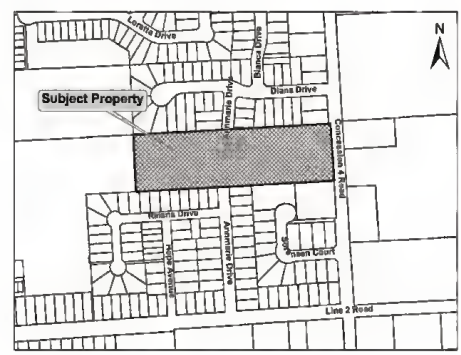
If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town Council in respect to this matter, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 17th day of December 2015.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

1532 Concession 4 Road - Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning Amendment

PROPOSED CHANGE
To permit a 62 dwelling unit subdivision with 12 single-detached and 50 townhouse dwelling units.



HAVE YOUR SAY
Input on any proposed matter is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

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1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION
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MORE INFORMATION
For more information, please contact Jesse Auspitz at 905-468-3266 extension 258 or jauspitz@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

LEGAL NOTICE
Section 34 & 51 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submission to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town Council in respect to this matter, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 17th day of December 2015.

Chautauqua residents gathered on Friday evening for their annual Chautauqua Neighbourhood Christmas Carol Stroll. Santa led carollers through the streets of the neighbourhood, with with songs of the season along the route.

Season's Greetings from
Lord Mayor Pat Darte,
Members of Council
and Staff of the
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Niagara-on-the-Lake EST 1781

YOUTH HOLIDAY CAMP

Presented by the NOTL Community Centre

DECEMBER 21 - WINTER WONDERLAND
DECEMBER 22 - UNUSUAL OLYMPICS
DECEMBER 23 - SAFARI DAY
DECEMBER 28 - HAWAIIAN DAY
DECEMBER 29 - PYJAMA DAY
DECEMBER 30 - SUPER HERO DAY

Cost $30/day ($5 more for before and after care)
Time 9 am-4 pm
Before & after care from 7am-9am & 4pm-6 pm
Programs Theme Days, Group Games, Gym Activities, Crafts & more
Ages 5-12 years with a max of 20 kids/day
Contact natlcc@natlorg, or 905-468-4386

Look for March Break & Summer Camps in 2016

Spirit of Niagara Nominations Now Open

Plan to attend the Spirit of Niagara Awards, to be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 6:30 pm at the Queen's Landing Resort

Nominating Categories are:

- Celia Liu Award for **Excellence in Hospitality**
- Christopher Newton Award for **Extraordinary Vision in Business**
- **Company of the Year**
- Chamber of Commerce **Community Leadership Award**
- Peter Ling Award to the **Entrepreneur of the Year**
- Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence to the **Citizen of the Year**

Complete the online nomination forms at **www.niagaraonthelake.com/SON by 5 pm Friday, January 8.**

CHAMBER of COMMERCE
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Tickets: $40 each. Available from the Chamber of Commerce
To Purchase: call 905-468-1950 or visit
www.niagaraonthelake.com/page/tickets

Churches looking for refugee sponsorship support

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Two more Niagara-on-the-Lake church congregations are taking on the responsibility of sponsoring Syrian refugees.

Grace United and St. Mark's Anglican Church members have decided they want to help make refugee families feel safe and welcome in Niagara, and are hoping for support from the community.

Both will work with their Niagara dioceses and national church organizations, which are among the many across the country that have have signed sponsorship agreements with the federal government to support refugees from abroad when they resettle in Canada.

The local churches join the United Mennonite Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which decided last month to sponsor a family expected to arrive any time, working through the Mennonite Central Committee.

Bob Goodwin of Grace United said his church committee will be meeting with members of St. Mark's, to see how they can work together on sponsorship, "making it a community initiative.

"We don't have a financial problem, but we do have a people problem," said Goodwin, speaking specifically for Grace.

"Our challenge is the aging demographics of our church congregation. It's hard to get enough feet on the ground."

There are different sponsorship programs with different costs, but the churches expect to go the route of a blended program that makes them responsible for raising $17,000, based on the needs of a family of four, with the federal government contributing $10,000.

Grace is further ahead in the dollar department - St. Mark's is hoping for donations from the community.

But all three churches would be delighted to have community involvement.

Each congregation is waiting to see what size family they will be sponsoring, and at that time, may have a better idea of what is needed.

"Then the work begins in setting sub-groups to deal with the many aspects of support, including housing and furnishings, clothing, transportation, school for the children, and so much more."

The refugees they sponsor will settle in St. Catharines, where the services they will need are located, said Goodwin.

There is a long list of tasks that will need to be covered - helping to register kids at school and parents for English lessons, helping adults apply for a driving licence and any other documents they need, teaching them how to use transportation and being available to drive when needed are just a few of the ways people can contribute.

Making the refugees feel safe in their new home and country is paramount, said Goodwin, as is helping them to integrate into a community that is already there for them.

"Once they're introduced to their support system, there will be less of a demand on us. But the initial introduction to the system is our responsibility, and it's our responsibility for a year."

To help out, call Goodwin at 905-468-8981.

Don MacLeod of St. Mark's says the push is on for the congregation to raise its sponsorship money by the end of the year, and would welcome donations.

Refugees began arriving in Toronto last week. Some will be sent to a reception centre in Hamilton, and of those, about 150 refugees are expected to arrive in Niagara in January.

MacLeod says St. Mark's has had a very generous and positive response from the community already, but like the other churches, is waiting to hear more about the family it will sponsor, and at that point, will begin looking for practical and logistical support as well.

"It's a step-by-step process, and it's going to be a learning curve for all of us as well."

To donate to St. Mark's refugee sponsorship program, call MacLeod at 905-468-0656.

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10 FIRELANE 12A | $1,795,000

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Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

BY APPOINTMENT

7A LUTHER AVENUE | $405,000

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Rick Hawes 905-347-0173 direct.**

OPEN HOUSE SAT. & SUN. 2-4 PM

6 SAWMILL

Executive unit, 2 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow, attached double car garage, gorgeous open concept elmwood kitchen and great room w/ valuted ceiling. Prices in development start at $368,000

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564**

736 RYE ST | $1,495,000

A Magnificent masterpiece incarparating the highest quality and the finest design, 5 bedroom & 5 baths; lush private rear garden.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

14 HEARTH COURT, VIRGIL | $529,000

Spacious home on a quiet cul de sac near school and sports facilities. Pie shaped lot with In ground pool and gazebo with hot tub. **14HearthCourt.com**

Aaron Cherney* 905-401-7915
Helen Mosca* 905-650-5669

4 STONERIDGE CR. | $619,900

Open concept gorgeous kitchen with huge island and quartz counters. Beautiful spa ensuite with tiled shower.

Dan Stefels* 905-327-7438
Katie Redekopp 905-658-1564

BUILDING LOT NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY | $489,000

Exceptional, Rare and Historic. Unparalleled views and located on the Niagara River Parkway as described by Winston Churchill, "one of the prettiest drives in the world." One acre lot providing a once in a lifetime opportunity to build your dream home.

Kevan & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700**

DECK THE HALLS | $895,000

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Gloria Szylak* 905-468-4214

1893 LAKESHORE RD

Elegant and Updated successful Bed & Breakfast. Private owners quarters all on main level. Stunning decor! Call for details

JO-ANN CUDMORE 905-321-8126

12 SHAKESPEARE AVE. | $449,000

Open concept kitchen/dining room/living room in lovely condition with back sun deck facing west. Two bedroom + office, full unspoiled basement with laundry room. Detached garage with studio area. Like new condition, available immediately. All appliances included!

Call Bev Wiebe* 289-407-5899

6 CAMPBELL STREET | $1,145,000

Custom designed 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with over 3500 sqft of living space. Wood burning fireplace, gourmet kitchen, main floor master bedroom & finished basement.

Michelle Reynolds* 905-468-4214

556 KING ST, UNIT 9 | $449,000

Bungalow townhouse in Kingsview Estates 1600 Square Feet · 2 bedroom plus den Spacious living area with gas fireplace Private back yard with deck

Helen Mosca* 905-650-5669
Aaron Cherney* 905-401-7915

royallepage.ca | www.homesniagara.com | 905.468.4214

Lord Mayor Pat Darte rode in style with his family, enjoying a carriage ride through the streets of the Old Town Saturday for the NOTL Christmas Parade. The Burlington Teen Band was a favourite, and Crossroads Public School staff and students also enjoyed the parade.

Penny Coles/Niagara Advance

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
323 Simcoe Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Christmas Eve Service 7pm
Matthew Lingard

Christmas Day Service 11am
Rev. Barb McGale

Candlelight Service

Behold the Star!

Presented by the combined choirs of Bethany Mennonite and Niagara United Mennonite Churches.

Saturday, Dec 19, 2015
at Bethany Mennonite Church at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 20, 2015
at Niagara United Mennonite Church at 7:00 p.m

Prelude by the Niagara Bethany Handbell choir begins at 6:45

BETHANY MENNONITE CHURCH
572 East/West Line (at Creek Road) • 905-468-3505
NIAGARA UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH
1775 Niagara Stone Road 905-468-3313

Staff and students from the Royal Oak Community School took part in this year's NOTL Christmas Parade Saturday, as did members of the minor lacrosse club.

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31 MELVILLE $729,000

Executive freehold townhome. Extraordinary views of the Niagara River and the marina of Niagara on the lake sailing club. 2 bedrooms + den, 3.5 bathrooms, 2 floor to ceiling stone fireplaces, all stainless steel appliances included + wine fridge, washer & dryer. 3 decks from which to enjoy the views. **MLS# N30054089. Audrey Wright and Chris Bowron.**

1387 LINE 3 ROAD $1,290,000

This gorgeous estate property offers the ultimate in country living. Kentucky feel in the heart of Niagara. Over 5 acres of pristine property featuring a beautiful main bungalow home with attached garage, large barn, 9 stall beautiful shop with heating, large stocked natural pond, children's playhouse, natural stone outdoor fireplace with large outdoor patio. This home represents the ultimate to any car, garden or horse farm enthusiast. **MLS# N3603638B. Bonnie Grimm and Thomas Elltoft.**

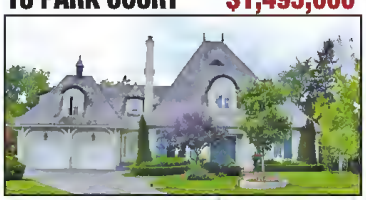
180 WILLIAM STREET $889,000

Showcasing a quality built new construction home complementing the historic surrounds of NOTL. This brand new luxury home is located in a prime location of old town close to shops, theatres, restaurants, walking trails and community centre. High end finishes include hardwood, granite countertops, character trim, tile and glass main floor bathroom and interlocked driveway. **MLS N30050954 Viviane Elltoft or Tom Elltoft.**

389 SIMCOE STREET $868,000

Terrific corner location in quiet neighbourhood only four blocks from main shopping, theatres, restaurants, and golf course. This 5+ bedroom home offers a versatile floor plan suitable for family, guests or possible Bed & Breakfast. Surrounded by mature trees with 2-car garage, double driveway plus 2 additional parking spaces. **MLS# N30053180. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

18 PARK COURT $1,495,000



Truly one of the finest homes in Niagara on the Lake. This architecturally designed French Manor is situated on a 1/3 acre beautifully landscaped lot. Located on a quiet court near parkland, The Commons, and backs onto Upper Canada's Nature Trail. Uncompromising quality and meticulous details can be found throughout this wonderful home. **MLS# N3092778B. Audrey Wright and Chris Bowron.**

PTL 105 LINE 5 ROAD $598,000

Build your dream home in the country. A superior rural property less than $17,000 an acre and fully under drained. Ideal for grape, plum, apples or pears. **MLS# N30053125. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

67 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $525,000

Fabulous large treed lot (74 x 300) with a great newly renovated home done from top to bottom located in St. Davids. Main floor master bedroom with an additional two bedrooms located on the lower level. Close to Hwy 405/US border & amenities. Lots of hiking and biking trails nearby. **MLS# N30048219. Cheryl Carmichael, Randall Armstrong and Kevin Stokes**

7 LAURA SECORD PLACE $699,000

Gorgeous park like setting! This very rare almost 3/4 acre private ravine lot is located on a quiet cul-de-sac. This four bedroom home with many updates has been very well maintained. The rear yard is a paradise with a 20 x 40 "wave pool", large deck, flagstone walkways and beautiful gardens. **MLS# N30049620. Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie.**

Broker, Christopher Bowron***	905-466-2269
Victoria Bolduc*	905-941-3726
Philip Bowron*	905-346-7626
Bonnie Grimm*	905-466-1256
Ralph Tallman*	905-466-2973
Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong**	905-651-2977
Audrey Wright*	269-241-0212
Trish Badham*	905-262-1876
Viviane Elltoft*	905-466-2142
Thomas Elltoft*	905-360-6012
Cheryl Carmichael*	905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie*	905-665-2456
Phyllis Henderson*	905-932-2569
Robert Wilkinson*	905-360-3651
Kevin Stokes*	905-966-3222
Colleen Blake*	905-326-8799
Christine Bruce*	905-326-9703
Marilyn Francis*	905-932-1266
Linda Williams*	647-201-2669

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‡Drive Mode Select with Snow Mode not available on NX models. ~2016 IS 300 AWD F SPORT Series 1/2015 NX 200t F SPORT Series 1 shown $48,434/$53,533. ^$1,500/$2,000 AWD Credit is available on the cash, purchase/lease/finance of new 2016 Lexus IS 300 AWD models only/2015 NX 200t models only, and will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price after taxes. Additional consumer incentives available on most non-AWD models. Limited time offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. *Lease offers provided through Lexus Financial Services on approved credit. *Representative lease example based on a 2016 IS 300 AWD sfx 'A' on a 40 month term at an annual rate of 1.9% and Complete Lexus Price of $44,863. Monthly payment is $399 with $5,500 down payment or equivalent trade in. $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $21,445. 60,000 kilometre allowance, charge of $0.20/km for excess kilometres. *Representative lease example based on a 2015 NX 200t sfx 'F' on a 40 month term at an annual rate of 1.9% and Complete Lexus Price of $53,533. Monthly payment is $499 with $7,370 down payment or equivalent trade in. $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Payment calculation includes $2,000 AWD Credit. Total lease obligation is $27,315. 60,000 kilometre allowance, charge of $0.20/km for excess kilometres. Complete Lexus Price includes freight/PDI ($2,045), Dealer fees, EHF Tires ($29), EHF Filters ($0), A/C charge ($100), and OMVIC Fee ($10). Taxes, license, registration (if applicable) and insurance are extra. Lexus Dealers are free to set their own prices. Limited time offers only apply to retail customers at participating Lexus Dealers. Dealer order/trade may be required. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Offers expire at month's end unless extended or revised. See your Lexus Dealer for complete details.

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At Fort George's Garrison Christmas this weekend, visitors to the Officers Quarters at the fort were given an opportunity to make decorations of the 1812 era, using similar materials.

Fred Mercnik/Special to the Advance

THE SHAW FESTIVAL PRESENTS

A dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' classic story with musical accompaniment

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 20 AT 3PM

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Shaw Festival Box Office
905.468.2172 or at the door.
Adults $15, Children $8

Proceeds benefit Newark Neighbours – Thrift Store and Food Bank

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Come, Let Us Adore Him!

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Happy Holidays!

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Many thanks for your valued patronage.

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Thursday, Dec 24 7am-5pm
Dec 25 and 26 closed
Sunday, Dec 27 9am-6pm
Thursday, Dec 31 8am-6pm
Friday, Jan 1 closed.

1551 Niagara Stone Rd. Virgil
905-468-3286

At this joyous time of year, we are grateful for our wonderful community. We wish you an abundance of happiness, peace and a new year filled with hope.

Happy Holidays
and all the best in the
New Year!
Leigh, David and all our Staff

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11C Unit 2 Garrison Village Drive
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"As Shepherds watched and angels sang from darkest night till morn, A sweet and tender Little Babe, was born" May the true meaning of Christmas live in your hearts this Season and remain throughout the year.

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Rob Weier CPA, CA
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

In the spirit of the holidays, please consider making a donation to Newark Neighbours.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte & Family

Christmas Greetings

Upper Canada Travel would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our friends and clients for your continued support and patronage during the past year. Your business means the world to us! We wish you a Very Merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

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May all your days be merry and bright.

A safe and joyous season to everyone.
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Travis Cairns CFP, Agent
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Bus: 905-468-2221

State Farm™

1201858CN State Farm, Canadian Head Office, Aurora, Ontario

Merry Christmas

This is our favourite time of year, filled with good friends, good times, and good cheer.

We appreciate your business and wish you a wonderful holiday season!

CAROLINE CELLARS

1010 Line 2, NOTL
905-468-8814
info@carolinecellars.com
www.carolinecellars.com

SEASON'S GREETINGS

A special thank you to our loyal members, our Thursday Fish Fry patrons and to all who attended our Ham and Turkey Roll.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at

MEMORIAM · FORUM · RETINEBIMUS · LEGION

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
Branch #124
410 King St. NOTL
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Season's Greetings

Here's hoping your holiday is beautiful in every way.

Thanks for your business!

LIDA KOWAL
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
Chartered Professional Accountant
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SIMPSON'S
LIVE WELL WITH
PHARMASAVE

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It's been a real pleasure serving you this past year!

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Season's Greetings

Wishing You Health, Happiness and a Joyous Christmas
All the best in 2016!

Silks

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The Greatest Gift

Peace, love and joy to you & your family now & throughout the new year. May the good Lord bless & keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, & grant you peace.

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Ho-Ho-Hope It's Merry!

Here's hoping all of your best wishes come true this holiday season!

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Niagara-on-the-Lake FAMILY HEALTH TEAM
905-468-2177

Season's Greetings

At this joyous time of year,
we are grateful for our work with you.
We wish you abundance, happiness, and peace
in a new year filled with hope.
Happy holidays!

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Wishing You
Joy Peace & Enlightenment
At Christmas
With thanks to all of those who've
inspired us this past year.
We are truly grateful for your
friendship and continued loyalty.
All the best
Tony, Michele and family
and the staff at

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HOLIDAY HOURS:
Dec 23rd 8am-9pm • Christmas Eve 7am-5pm
Closed Christmas Day • Open Boxing Day 10am-6pm
All other days 8am-8pm
NEW YEAR'S EVE 8am-6pm
CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

SAVE YOUR BOTTLES
FOR THE AIR CADETS
BOTTLE DRIVE
JANUARY 16TH

Holiday GREETINGS

At this time of year, our thoughts turn gratefully
to those who have made our progress possible.
On behalf of our staff, we would like to thank you
and wish you and your family
a wonderful, Merry Christmas.
May you have a safe and Happy New Year
and all the best of health in 2016!

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Calling all current, future Penguins for 40th anniversary

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

It's been more than 40 years since four young guys playing ball near Smuggler's Cove in the winter got so warm they decided to cool off in the frigid Niagara River.

They had to push the ice away from the shore to make their way into the water, but once in, it didn't feel too bad, says Lorne Bjorgan, one of the four.

It was Easter weekend, and after their swim, when they moved inside to Terry Ball's basement, they decided to make it an annual event but do it on Boxing Day, when it would be really cold. And to distinguish themselves from those "wimpsm the polar bears," who go in just once on New Year's Day, said Bjorgan, they decided official Penguins would have to go in three times, three years in a row - and that is the tradition that will be celebrated this Boxing Day.

Bjorgan is now 63 years old, and has only missed a couple of years, due to illnesses that made it wise for him to watch from the sidelines.

Of the original four, he says he's "the only idiot" to continue on with the tradition.

Bjorgan is issuing a challenge to Ball, who has been in a several times since, to take the plunge for the 40th anniversary, as well as to the other original members, Rick Oswald and Leo McCarthy.

He names a few other Penguins from the early years, and challenges them, if healthy, to celebrate the milestone with them: Vic Tee, who has also been a regular; Gary Burroughs, who is an official Penguin but hasn't taken part in many years; Norm Haigh, Mike Howse, and John Kosteski, to name just a few.

Bjorgan's brothers, Chris and Moe, official Penguins, are also expected to take part.

Many of the next generation, the Bjorgans' kids, have become regulars.

Also to recognize the event's 40th anniversary, Lorne is asking for donations to Red Roof Retreat, founded by Steffanie and Moe after their son Garrett was born with cerebral palsy, to offer special programs and respite care for special needs children and young adults.

See Page 25

BOXING WEEK PRICE RIOT!

THIS WAY FOR GREAT SAVINGS!

WHAM! POW!

POW! WHAM!

THIS WAY FOR GREAT SAVINGS!

Duane Gibson General Manager Retail

51 GIBBYS electronic supermarket SINCE 1964

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BOXING WEEK PRICE RIOT STARTS NOW AT GIBBYS

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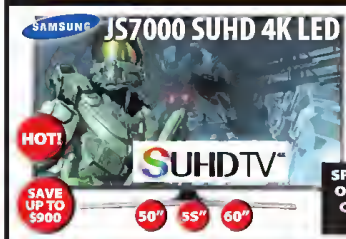
SAMSUNG JS7000 SUHD 4K LED



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Sunday December 20th 11am-5pm
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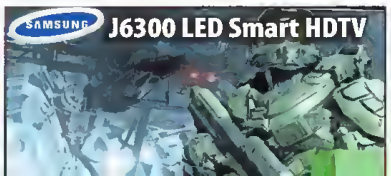

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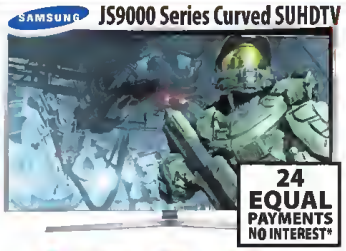

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Saturday, December 19th	10am-7pm
Sunday, December 20th	11am-5pm
Monday, December 21st	10am-9pm

This is year to register and donate to swim

From Page 20

Although he is expecting Steffanie to take part as well, she 's not making any promises. She's only done it once.

"It was cold," she said. "And my thinking ever since has been 'are these people crazy?'"

She's not ruling it out completely - she likely won't until the day of the event - hut for now, she's expected to be on the sidelines, watching with Garrett.

Organizers of the annual Penguin Dip never know who will show up or what kind of crowd to expect - there has never heen any registration. People would just know to show up on Ball's Beach, and some would he there to go in the water, others just to watch.

But this year they're hoping for record participation, and want to he prepared.

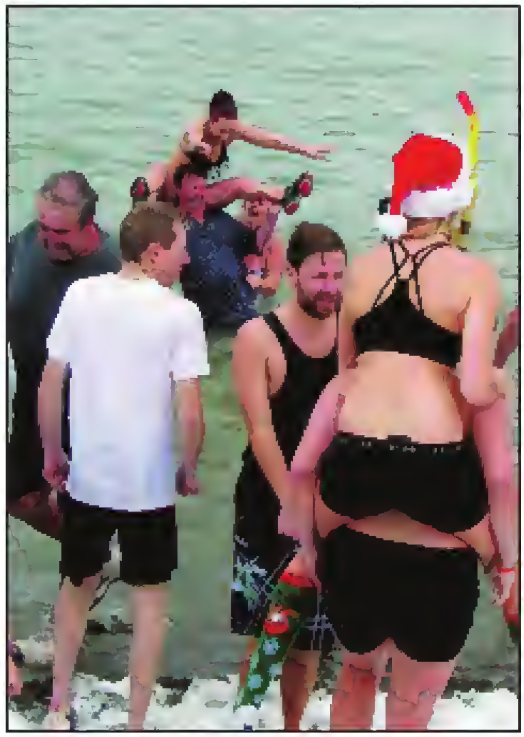
They would also like to have an official record of who is participating, and are making it easy for those who register to solicit donations, which can he made on Red Roof's wehsite. That process will also allow tax receipts to he issues.

For many years, Lorne has arranged for a truck to he parked at the end of River Beach Drive for swimmers, with heaters inside for swimmers to retreat to between dips. But as the event has grown and the number of participants increased, that truck has hecome pretty crowded, he says.

This year, with more promotion and a larger crowd expected, he will arrange for a large tent at the site in place of the trailer, with flap sides and several heaters.

He's hoping anyone who has thought of taking the plunge in recent years - hut hasn't - will make this the year. In addition to heing an anniversary, it's also looking like it will he a mild winter, which is encouraging to potential Penguins.

For information on registering or to donate visit http://www.redroofretreat.com/penguin-swim/.



Lorne Bjorgan throws his daughter into the water for the third dip of a Penguin Swim. Bjorgan and Terry Ball, to his right, are two of the original four who started the Penguin Dip 40 years ago. File photo/Niagara Advance

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LET'S ALL DO OUR PART! PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Shaw volunteers offer Dickens at St. Mark's

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

It's heen almost two decades since volunteers from the Shaw Festival community began banishing humbug from the holidays with an annual dramatic reading of A Christmas Carol - always to henefit a local charity.

Peter Millard, a Shaw Festival ensemhle member, has played Scrooge several times and has taken on other roles as well, but in recent years has been the director and co-ordinator of the event.

He's the least bah-humhug kind of guy around - he loves Christmas and all the traditions that accompany the festival season.

"Christmas is a time of giving, and the funds raised by this go to a good cause," he said.

The reading has become a popular tradition in Niagara-on-the-Lake, usually performed to a full house at St. Mark's Church.

This year, Peter Krantz, another Shaw veteran, will play Scrooge - it's his second season as the main character, although he too has read other roles, including Tiny Tim.

"It's a story that is timeless, and can he told in so many different ways," he said, adding CBC presented the Disney version with Mickey Mouse over the weekend.

See Page 30

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*See page 2 for details.

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Performance to benefit Newark Neighbours food bank

From Page 28

"It's always the same story of redemption, of hope - it's never too late to do some good in the world," said Krantz.

Christmas stories such as Dickens' Christmas Carol are "dark" for a reason, said Millard.

"Without darkness there can be no light. Without sadness there can be no joy. It's a classic template for a story, and it's necessary for there to be redemption. Scrooge loses himself, then finds himself again."

The cast changes every year, and sometimes up to the last minute, adds Millard.

"We're grateful to all those who jump into the ring to do this. We don't always know who is available, since it's all volunteer work, and we're never sure who is going to be around at this time of year."

This season, Krantz will be accompanied by Donna Belleville, Terry Belleville, Neil Barclay and Marla McLean for the reading.

Songs will be performed by Patty Jamieson and Billy Lake, accompanied on piano and organ by Michael Tansley.

The reading takes place Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Tickets are $15 for adults, and $8 for children.

Advance tickets are available at the Shaw Festival box office at 1-800-511-SHAW. Tickets will also be sold at the door prior to event.

Proceeds go to a different charity every year, and this performance will benefit Newark Neighbours Thrift Store and Food Bank.

Peter Millard begs Peter Krantz (Scrooge) to accept a Christmas gift, but Scrooge is still at his humbug stage of viewing Christmas. The two Shaw Festival actors are part of a dramatic reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

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Tis the Season

Know your healthcare options in Niagara

During the months of November to May, flu and other illnesses spread in our communities. As we celebrate the holiday season, people gather in larger groups, they travel, and attend events that create opportunities for illnesses to spread.

Niagara Health System, Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre, and Niagara Region Public Health are working together to help the public better understand the options available for healthcare during the holiday season and winter months.

In non-emergency situations, YOUR FIRST OPTION should be your family doctor or nurse practitioner.

Other options include:

- Walk-in clinics
- Visit Healthcare Options at **www.ontario.ca/healthcareoptions** to search for a healthcare provider near you
- Call Telehealth 1-866-797-0000 for health advice and information from a registered nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Call 211 for information and services about healthcare in Niagara

For medical emergencies: Call 9-1-1-immediately or go to the nearest Emergency Department
General healthcare options: www.niagarahealth.on.ca/Options

When to go to a Niagara Health System Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centre

Our **Emergency Department** teams treat patients who call 9-1-1 and arrive by ambulance. They also treat walk-in patients for such emergencies as:

- Broken bones
- Dizziness
- Complications of pregnancy
- Serious illness
- Serious injury
- Mental health issues

Our **Urgent Care Centre** teams treat patients with minor injuries or illnesses such as:

- Minor abdominal pain (nausea, vomiting)
- Ear, nose, throat and eye problems
- Minor mental health issues
- Cuts that may need stitches
- Sprains, strains, sports injuries
- Minor asthma attacks or allergic reactions

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For wait times visit: www.niagarahealth.on.ca/educcwaittimes
For information on the flu: www.niagararegion.ca/health

Prostate topic at InfoHealth

Randy Klaassen
Special to the Advance

Just in case public attention for Movember passed you by, the latest session of InfoHealth at the NOTL Library was on men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and erectile dysfunction.

First year medical student Ellen Robb (PhD, Biological Sciences) described the prostate gland to be "... about the size of a walnut, and part of the male reproductive system, located underneath the bladder. As such, when there are issues with the prostate, there are issues related to the bladder. Changes in size or function of the prostate are common health concerns among men."

She said 70 per cent of men over the age of 70 will deal with "benign prostatic hyperplasia."

The prostate gland keeps growing, she explained, albeit at different rates through life. If the gland becomes too large it affects bladder function. This signals time to talk with your doctor, who will decide a specific course of action to manage the situation, which is not cancerous.

Medical student Ellen Robb and Dr. Andrew Smith of the NOTL Family Health Team talked of prostate cancer at the recent InfoHealth session at the NOTL Public Library. Randy Klaassen/Special to the Advance

"One in eight men will deal with prostate cancer, as it is the most common cancer among men. However, because prostate cancer is usually a slow growth, typically men die with it, rather than from it," she said.

Research on prostate cancer continues to mystify scientists, she added.

"They don't know what causes it, and there are no genetic tests to find out if mutation carriers are present. Lifestyle factors, like smoking, obesity, exercise and diet seem to have a role, but that's debatable. Men who eat a lot of red meat, or high fat dairy products appear to have a slightly higher chance of getting prostate cancer. These men also tend to eat fewer fruits and vegetables."

To be proactive, she said, "keep in mind lifestyle behaviour that is good for the beart seems to be good for the prostate."

Robb also discussed erectile dysfunction, whicb affects one in 10 men, she said.

While it gets attention it's important for men to know that it can be a warning sign that a beart attack or a stroke may follow - it's an indication of other underlying factors that warrant investigation, she said, and is an important conversation to have with your doctor.

"Management strategies, particularly those that involve medications, need to be undertaken with consultation and advice from your physician."

To reduce the chance of erectile dysfunction men should maintain positive lifestyle patterns like exercise, reducing stress, stop smoking and reduce alcohol intake. She stressed that tobacco use restricts blood flow, causing chronic health conditions that can lead to erectile dysfunction.

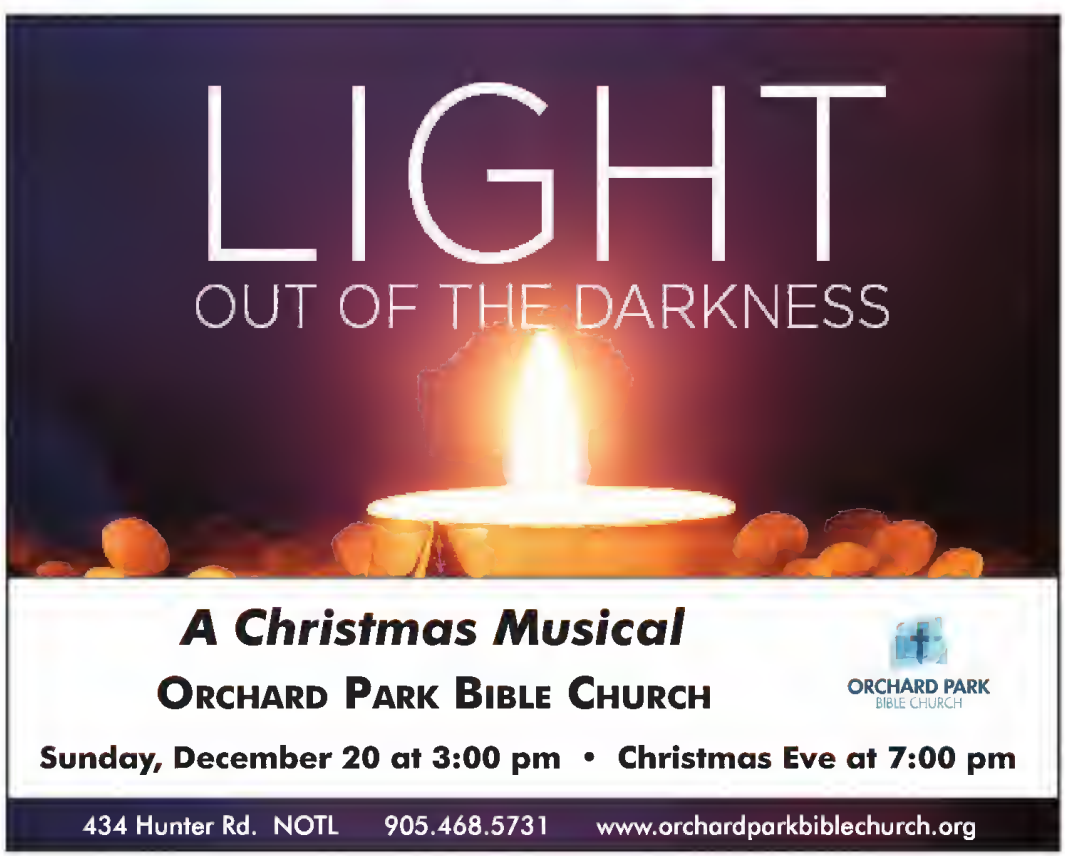
NOTL family physician Dr. Andrew Smith responded to a number of questions related to aspirin and other blood thinners. He also said it is important to discuss these and related topics with your family doctor.

Dr. Bill Brown, organizer of the monthly InfoHealth sessions, said men tend to not deal with health issues very well, and predicted the audience at this session would be mostly women, challenging men to prove him wrong.

He had to get more chairs out to accommodate a full room, and yes, there were mostly men in attendance.

InfoHealth lectures are hosted at the NOTL Public Library the second Wednesday of each month. The next InfoHealth lecture is on foot care, at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 13.

The InfoHealth presentation is shown on Cogeco TV, Fridays at 6 p.m. Each lecture is rebroadcast for four weeks following each talk, and then available for six months through Cogeco's On-Demand service.



Town offers Christmas camp for kids

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's recreation department is offering a Youth Holiday Camp over the Christmas vacation.

The camp will offer activities at the community centre Dec. 21 to 23 and 28 to 30 for kids aged five to 12, and will accept a maximum of 20 children each day.

The cost is $30 per day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Before and after care is available beginning at 7 a.m., and going to 6 p.m., for an extra $5 per day.

The program will include theme days, co-operative, action and adventure games, outdoor and gym activities and crafts.

Activities include making snow globes, gingerbread houses and holiday cookies. There will be a Wacky Olympic Games, a safari treasure hunt, a Hawaiian luau, avenger training and a superhero obstacle course.

A complete schedule and online registration is available at notl.org or sign up by calling the community centre at 905-468-4386.

Public skating during Christmas break

Public skating is generally held every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 3p.m., but there will be no public skating Sunday, Dec. 27.

During the Christmas break, additional public skating sessions will be held Dec. 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 30 and 31.

The cost is $2.50 for kids 17 years old and under. Adults are $3.

Check online at notl.org for the arena schedule. Cancellations will be posted on the arena boards and online.

IT'S IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

NOTL again named top 10 for value to visitors

Trivago, the travel search site, has named Niagara-on-the-Lake one of Canada's Top 10 Best Value Cities for 2016 after being ranked number one in 2015.

NOTL was the only Niagara destination on the list, and came in at number six for 2016.

"Once again our community is being recognized for the exceptional value we present to the millions of visitors who travel to our area each year," stated Lord Mayor Pat Darte.

"With over 30 wineries, microbreweries and countless attractions, such as the Shaw Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake has much to offer as a destination of choice."

There are also many upcoming events planned for this winter, including the annual Icewine Festival.

The Trivago Best Value Index ranks cities based on a combination of consumer ratings andaverage hotel prices with 100% being the top score. It provides a unique overview of the best valued destinations by using a specifically tailored algorithm that combines the Trivago hotel price index with Trivago's reputation ranking for hotels. Only destinations with at least 30 hotels and a minimum average of 150 user ratings per hotel were considered in this index.

See the complete list at Canada's Top 10 Best Value Cities for 2016.

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APRIL • SEPTEMBER — AKWESASNE MOHAWK CASINO — From $329 PP Twin
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Seniors take pride in art they create

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

You don't need to be an accomplished artist to create a work of art that is worthy of public display.

Elizabeth Zapotoczny, a recreational aid who works with seniors at Chartwell Niagara, has been working with residents who attend her art sessions, convincing them they can create something that will become a source of pride when hung for all to enjoy in the sun room of the long-term care residence, or as part of a display at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

Zapotoczny calls it EZ Art, and takes inspiration where she finds it - when online or flipping through the pages of a magazine, she is always on the lookout for projects she can adapt for her seniors, something that can be broken down into steps and produced in separate pieces by residents, and then assembled to create a painting they have each contributed to.

The end results are impressive - often with a three-dimensional element to them - and give the seniors who have participated in the program a feeling of pride, of being useful, and of pleasure for having created something others enjoy, she says.

Chartwell Niagara (formerly Chateau Gardens) resident Terry Edwards works with recreational aid Elizabeth Zapotoczny on one strip of a painting that will be finished by a group of seniors, each of whom contributes a part of the project.
Penny Coles/Niagara Advance

"I'm always trying to keep residents busy with a variety of programs," says Zapotoczny, "and I like arts in general. Art is such a broad field - you can create different programs for people of varying abilities."

See Page 36

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24

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Mon-Fri 7am-8pm • Sat 7am-7pm • Sun 8am-6pm

Work is hung where residents, visitors can enjoy it

From Page 34

Her projects can be modified for a group of seniors sitting around a table working fairly independently, or for individuals who need one-on-one help, even hand-on-hand, to be engaged, she said, but all can take pride in the finished product.

"And if one gets tired of painting, someone else can take over," she adds.

She begins by showing them a photo of a painting they could create, and then hands out the material that is required - different media and different techniques are required, depending on the painting.

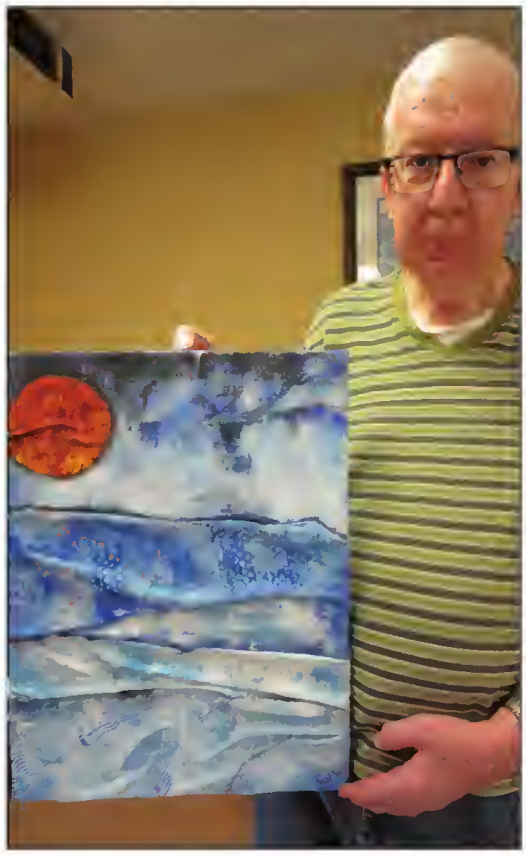
Each senior attending her morning session last week was given some cloth and acrylic paint, and simple instructions to dab colours on the material.

It can get messy, she said, but it's an enjoyable task for some, and those who don't want to take part often come to watch.

And when the individual pieces were finished, glued to a canvas and some finishing touches added by Zapotoczny, she had a painting named Winter Field which now hangs in the sun room, for residents, staff and visitors to enjoy.

Recently, a number of the paintings were on display at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, and a group of seniors was taken to see the art show so they could see what they had accomplished.

Each painting, when finished, remains in the sun room for about a month, with a list of the seniors who contributed to the painting beside it, until the next session is finished. Eventually, Zapotoczny says, she hopes to organize a sale of the artwork as a fundraiser for the residence.



Terry Edwards holds up Winter Field, a painting that was made of different strips, each painted by a different senior, and put together with finishing touches by Chartwell Niagara recreational aid Elizabeth Zapotoczny.

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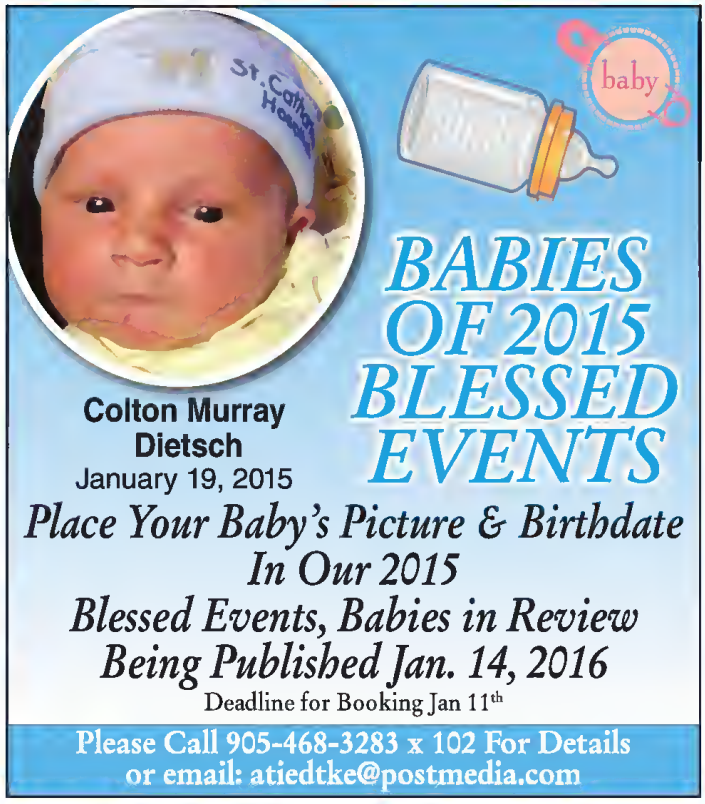

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Wallbanger game features youth versus experience

Ross Robinson
Special to the Advance

The electricity was palpable early Sunday morning at the Meridian Credit Union Arena, as the Red and Blue teams warmed up for their weekly Wallbangers game.

Something special was going to happen, and 24 players ranging in age from 17 to 78 were ready for action.

Soon after the puck drop at about 7:10a.m., Hanson's Habs Red captain Carl Glauser went end to end on a solo rush, before dishing off the puck to his 17-year-old son Ben. The fleet left-winger ripped a one timer into the top right corner, right where "Momma keeps the peanut butter." Top shelf past Moore's Maple Leaf Blue netminder Chris "Boomer" Manuel, and a quick lead for Red Team.

Both teams had seven forwards and four defencemen, which allowed everyone to skate hard and then get off the ice for a rest.

This was definitely the fastest paced Wallbanger of the season. Slow motion hockey maybe, but a lot less slow than normal. From start to finish, both teams gave it their all. Too bad there were no spectators to enjoy the action.

Ben Glauser was really on fire, skating and stickhandling like, well, a teenager. As the game went on, he got more and more attention from the Blue Team players.

Ben had his best game ever, with two goals top shelf and two low and hard along the ice. His defence played well both ways, with Ron Critchley and Rick Sherk feeding him several stretch passes through the neutral zone. The only way to stop Ben was to get the angle on him, and take away the shooting lanes.

Chris Knox, the second line centre on the Red Team, played an exceptional game, and scored his team's sixth and last goal after a deft pass from Marlin Tee.

Permit this humble scribe to wax poetic:

Hanson's Habs wore red,
Moore's Leafs wore blue,
Red Team scored six,
But still lost by two.

Yes, an 8 – 6 win for Blue, led by Ken "Svenny" Greer.

At this point in the 27th Wallbangers season, Red Team is ahead by two games. Can you stand the excitement?

Carl Glauser and his 17–year–old son Ben after the spirited Wallbanger hockey game on Sunday morning at the Meridian Credit Arena. Ben was the individual star of the game, with four goals and one assist.

Current standings for Hot Tub Hockey League

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points	Captain
Canadiens	4	4	3	11	George Enns
Wings	6	2	3	15	Jerry Covelli
Hawks	3	4	4	10	Pete Buis
Rangers	6	2	3	15	Dave Telford
Bruins	3	6	2	8	Jim Vanderzalm
Leafs	3	7	1	7	John Fedorkow

The Hot Tub Hockey League was started by Ted Wiens and the late Art Wiens 16 years ago.

It has six teams of men aged 50 and up, who play Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday nights at the Virgil arena, at 9:30 p.m. For information on playing, contact Ted Wiens at 905-468-2408.

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev Paul James
Sunday, December 20th
Worship Service - 10:30 am • Candlelight Service - 7 pm
Christmas Eve Service - 7 pm
Come and celebrate God's love for us all

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, December 20th
10 am Worship Gathering & Kids Ministry
Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: Receiving the Light (John 1:6-13)

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Live Life With Us"
Worship Service
11 am ~ Sunday, December 20th
Christmas Day Worship Service
11 am ~ Friday, December 25th
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-2611 or 905-468-9673
10:00 am Worship Service
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7:30 pm

Please call 905-468-3283 Ext 102 to advertise your Holiday Services.

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GateWay Community Church
(P.A.O.C.)
1665 Four Mile Creek Road
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www.gatewaycc.ca:
Check here for events and podcasts.

ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
Sunday, December 20th
9:30 am - Sunday school for ages 4 - 17
9:45 am - Adult Prayer Time
10:45 am - Worship Service
Message by Pastor Reid Cooke
L.I.G.H.T. Out of the Darkness
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Grace United Church
222 Victoria Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4044

Come join us on Sunday, December 20 as we share the story of the birth of Jesus with friends and neighbours.

The service offers a time of quiet reflection amidst the busyness of the season and reminds us of the Christmas message of hope, peace and love.

Our Family Christmas Eve Candelight Service will be held at 4 pm on Thursday, December 24. Everyone is welcome to join us as we re-tell the Christmas story through words and music.

Amazing Grace United Church

VILLAGE Bible Church
736 York Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525
Sunday, December 20th
10:00 am Coffee Time
10:30 am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
Christmas Dynasty: God and My Doubt
Family Christmas Eve Service
December 24 @ 6:30pm
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

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life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Concession 7 Rd
905 688 3958
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Everlasting Father
9:30AM coffee 10:30AM worship
info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

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Dec. 20th 10 am ~ Children's Program
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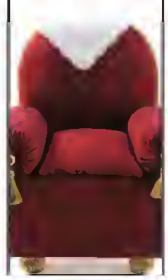

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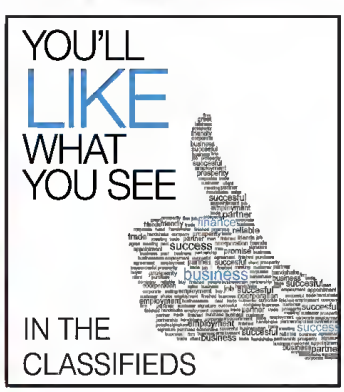
Seasonal/Temporary

EXPERIENCED Seesonal Ferm workers requirad for fruit farm April to October. Must be available 7 days/week in ell weather conditions. Job entails pruning, thinning, harvesting fruit plus heavy lifting and considerable ladder work. Must have own transportation, minimum wage. Please mail rasume with references to: K.L. Ferms, 100 Wall Rd., R.R. # 3 Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0. Only qualified persons will be contacted. (no walk ins)

Experienced Seasonal workers required for grape farm. Full time Mer. to Oct., Pay rete will be minimum wage. Fax resume to: 905-984-5257

SEASONAL Full - Time Farm Workers needed from approx. March 25 - to end of September. Must have velid SIN # & enjoy working in an agricultural environment in all weather conditions. Must be available 7 days a week. Heavy lifting & ladder climbing will be required. Duties also include pruning, weeding, hoeing, picking strewberries (6 weeks) peaches (thinning and picking) and thinning, picking plums. Pay is at minimum wage rate end own transportetion is e must. Fex rasume to 905-688-3503; Konik Farms.
Only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.

Seasonal Farm Workers required April to September. Pruning, thinning, end hervesting fruits. Heavy lifting, working at heights All weether. 7 deys Own transportetion Min wege.
Fax reaumea with referencea to 905-682-4020



Public Notices

December 24, 2015 Deadline

Retail advertising is Monday, December 21st 4:00 pm

Classified advertising is Tuesday, December 22nd 12:00 pm

December 31, 2015 Deadline

Retail & Classified ads: Wednesday, December 23rd 4:00 pm

If you would like to place an ad please call 905-468-3283 Ext. 101 for retail; 102 for classified or 103 for editorial content. Please leave a message and we will call you back.

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday!

WINNERS of the Queenston Volunteer FireFighters Association Christmas Basket Raffle are: 1st: Trevor Hernder; 2nd: Melissa Bottomley; 3rd: Brien Johnston; 4th: Sareh Burrows and 5th: Marion Bottomley.

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Fax: 1-866-485-8461
e-mail: obituaries@yourlifemoments.ca

All other moments call:
1-888-786-7821
Fax: 1-866-757-0227
e-mail: milestones.sun@yourlifemoments.ca

Marking your milestones.

Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Coming Events

Coming Events

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION (Merritton Branch) St. Catharines Brain Wave Cafe 2 Chestnut St. E. St. Catharines 2nd & 4th Tues of the month 1:30- 3 p.m.

Prayers

Prayers

PRAYER to ST. CLAIR
3 requests will be granted, for sure 2 impossible ones. Repeat this prayer for 9 days and on the 9th day publish this prayer: *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved today and everyday. Repeat 3 times and repeat 9 Hail Marys.* Starling

Obituaries

Obituaries

FAIRWEATHER, Kimball "Kim" - July 26, 1954 - December 10, 2015 Kim, loving husband of Cindy passed away peacefully at Niagara Hospice at the age of 61 after a brief, courageous battle with cancer. Kim was loved and respected by many friends and colleagues and admired for his wonderful sense of humour, brilliance and kindness. He lived his life to the fullest doing what he loved most, listening to music and playing golf year around. Kim was en accountent who spent most of his career as a trusted advisor in the commercial real estate industry. He was truly committed to his clients. Kim is predeceased by his parents Sidney and Phyllis and his brothers Sidney and Reginald. Kim is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Cindy, sister Lorraine Peterson (Carl), sister-in-law Claudia Robson (Art), cherished niece Sierra Robson (Mark) and loving nephews Mark and Matthew Robson. Heartfelt thanks to our friends who have supported us through this journey, and to the wonderful caregivers and staff at the Niagara Hospice. Arrangements have been entrusted to the **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME,** Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers memoriel donations to the Niagera Hospice would be appreciated. A celebration of Kim's life will be scheduled for late spring. "RING THE BELLS" Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

MORGAN
Service • Value • Family

Obituaries

Obituaries

PEFFER, Shirley Jane (née Wray) - Passed eway peacefully on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the age of 88. Predeceased by her beloved husband Lorne Peffer, two stepdaughters Elaine Mustoe and Janice (Wayne) Ferguson, and granddaughter, Karen Ortman. Survived by her three daughters Susan (Edward) Perlman of Lewiston, NY, Barbara (Michael) Kolodziej and Mary Jane (Russell - predeceased) Ortman of Niagara Falls, NY, stepdaughter Lynn Peffer of Calgary, Alberta, also 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, her sister Barbara (Albert - predeceased) McFarland and 2 nieces. Shirley was born in Toronto, Ontario, daughter of the late Aubrey and Mary (Creamer) Wray. Her family later moved to Niagara Falls, Ontario in her eerly teens. She worked many years as a bookkeeper and teller at Marine Midland Bank. Shirley retired with her husband, Lorne in winter months to Port Charlotte, Florida and to Hope Bay, Ontario during the summer months. They later moved to Waterloo, Ontario and eventually to Pleasant Manor in Virgil, Ontario. Throughout the years she enjoyed playing bridge, golf and spending time et family gatherings. Cremetion hes taken place and a private family service and interment will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made to Pleasant Manor in Virgil, Ontario. Condolences, photos and Pleasant Manor donations can be made on-line at
www.morseandson.com

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will give Canadians more time to laugh, to love and to live.

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HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION

In Memoriams

In Memoriams

In Loving Memory

GERRY WOOLL

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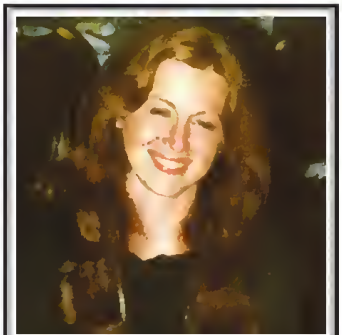
A Distinguished Member of 'The Greatest Generation'

Greatly Missed!



PAULA (Stewart) YARASCAVITCH

In Loving Memory of
my dear daughter who passed away on
December 14, 2014

Not a day goes by, Paula, without our thinking and talking about you lovingly. We miss you so very much.

You are in our hearts forever.

Mummy

Pay your respects... on
yourlifemoments.ca

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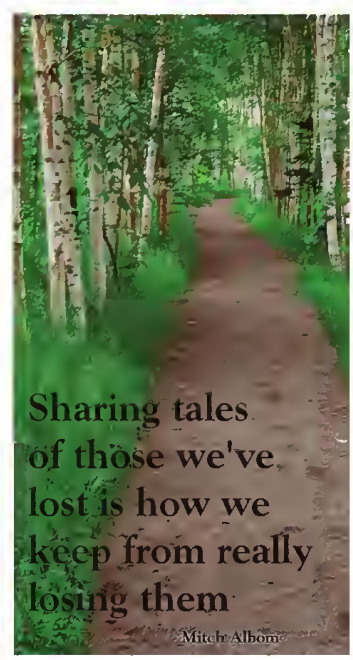
In Memoriams

In Memoriams

VAN EGMOND, Michael Gerald -
In loving memory of a dear son, fiancé, brother, uncle and friend who passed away December 20, 2010.

The years may wipe out many things,
But this they'll wipe out never,
The memory of those happy days,
When we were all together,
We think of him in silence,
His name we oft recall,
But there is nothing left to answer,
But his picture on the wall,
Just when his life was brightest,
Just when his hopes were best,
God called him from among us,
To a home of eternal rest.

Sadly missed, Forever loved. Mom and Dad (Jerry and Connie), Linda, Jeffrey and Christy, Robert and Tina, Samuel, Emma, Adam and David and Adeline.



Pay your respects... on
yourlifemoments.ca

You can now share your obituaries and in memoriams online.

The Meridian Credit Union Niagara Rangers major atom boys took third place in the St.Catharines CYO basketball tournament this weekend. The first game was intense but the Rangers came up short against Stoney Creek 47-43, following the loss with two wins, defeating Toronto Basketball 67-23 and the host team St. Catharines Rebels 54-40. A win against North Toronto Huskies 52-41 gave them the bronze medal. Head coach Red Klassen (top left), Cameron Moss, Joshua Mathew, Carter Stoutenburg, Ethan Carriere, Trey Schatz, assistant coach Chris Schatz, Lukas Klassen (middle row), Carter Morency, Ben Johnson, Dylan Macdonald, Dylan Heidebrecht (bottom) and Luca Valvano celebrate third place.

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Community Calendar
Social here,
with or without a border,
colour, graphics optional.
Include your logo!
Deadline: Monday 5pm
Holiday Deadline for December 31, 2015
Wednesday, December 23, 2015 @ 4 pm
Call Anna at
905-468-3283 ext 102

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